**Minutes of Kilsyth Academy Parents Council held on Thursday, 23rd January 2019 at 7pm**

**Present**: Matt Bendoris (chair)

 Margaret Haggerty

 Lee Moody

 Jane Machray

 Claire Hamilton

 Gregg Orrock (HT)

 Fiona Gilchrist

Tracy Clinton

 Helen Thomson

Emma Cowan

 Margaret Armstrong

Henry Dempsey

**Apologies**

Catherine Kay

 Gillian McTiernan

Jennifer Ballantyne

Wendy Dunsmore

Louise Chambers

Thomas Chalmers

Claire Hamilton

Elizabeth Wilson

Gillian Bartlett

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were approved.

**Maters Arising**

HT made an update call to the company running Show My Homework who said sign-up in the Academy was above average with staff and pupils. However HT would like to see an increase in the 195 parents who have signed-up already. The system appears to be working well though.

School security is still to be formally assessed by the clerk of works, however measures have been taken to lock certain school gates at particular times of day. HT was keen to stress that pupils are not locked in.

The chair wrote to Education Secretary John Swinney about chronic teacher shortages and is still awaiting a response, which he hopes to be able to share at next meeting.

There was good news to report that former pupil Nicole Lowther was in remission and now actively seeking a career as a teacher. All on the committee wished Nicole and her family the very best for the future.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No report as the treasurer Jennifer Ballantyne had sent her apologies.

**Head Teacher’s Report**

S1 numeracy night for S1 parents proved to be a success with a good turnout. The Academy is now arranging a second evening.

The science department is also to invite the parents of S1 & S2 pupil to engage in a workshops evening.

HT explained partnership with Tree Of Knowledge company who aim to close the attainment gap, working with targeted S3 pupils and their parents.

HT also explained work is going in to help inspire S6 pupils to get the most out of their final year.

The prelims went well, however it is anticipated that more exam invigilatorsmay be required come exam time. Anyone interested in helping out as an invigilator should contact the school who will put you in touch with invigilator Pat Docherty.

HT said that staffing issues were ‘at last’ settling down. Although Susan Taylor has retired from the office staff, Jane Machray has now stepped in to work three days a week with other staff picking up the remaining hours.

The Academy also took on a physics masters student Julie Hamilton as part of a fast-track into teaching scheme. Upon successful completion of her placement Miss Hamilton will begin as a probationer teacher in April.

The roll is also expected to increase from next term with 102 first year pupils expected to join the Academy – up from 78 the previous year. Seven pupils will also be joining us from Craighead Primary in Milton Campsie, again up on previous years.

HT is also awaiting North Lanarkshire Council’s budget settlement to see how it will affect the Academy and will update the council in due course.

There was also concern from strike action by the teacher’s union EIS. But HT was hoping pay negotiations would settle the issue before ballot on industrial action takes place.

The playing fields are by and large completed, and HT hoped to take the committee to inspect the new installation, once the final surface work is completed when the nights are lighter.

There was a discussion about more parent involvement in the school improvement plan and committee members were asked to have a think and bring any suggestions and ideas to the next meeting.

A homework committee had also been asking pupils for feedback, and shall now seek parents’ views on whether there is too much or too little homework etc.

**Any other business**

It was asked whether payments to school, for example for home economics class, could be rolled out online. HT explained moves were afoot from North Lanarkshire to make all payments digital, which will happen at some point in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

***Next meeting to take place on Monday , Monday February 18th at 7pm.***